

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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SOURCE:

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1. There were three pharmaceutical plants in Hungary, two of which were in Budapest. These were Chinoin and Wanger AG. The third was the Debrecen plant, in the city of the same name.
2. A pharmaceuticals were in short supply on the Hungarian market. People could not buy what they wanted but had to take what was available. Penicillin and streptomycin were especially short. Quinine was received from USSR but I do not know in what quantities. I suspect that the shortage in medicines was due to stockpiling.
3. The Chinoin and Wanger plants produced sulfa drugs but I do not know in what quantities. I do not believe that Hungary was producing enough sulfa drugs for her own needs. I also believe that sulfa drugs were being smuggled into the country; I have heard that there was a black market in these drugs and for these reasons I do not believe that Hungary produced any for export.
4. The only factory producing penicillin in Hungary was the Debrecen plant, which was opened in 1952 and operated with 8 to 10 centrifuges (alpha separators) built in Sweden. Debrecen was also the only plant producing streptomycin. I can give no production figures for either drug.
5. In January 1952, penicillin was still in short supply but was easier to procure than it had been. there was no export of Hungarian penicillin. I have heard, however, that such exports were being planned.

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